

**Chignik Advisory Committee
December 12th, 2018
Teleconference**

I. Call to Order: 9:35 a.m. by Jacob Shangin

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Jacob Shangin, Chair, Ivanof
Alfredo AbouEid, Vice Chair, Chignik Lagoon
Raechel Allen, Secretary, Chignik Bay
Marty Takak, Chignik Lake
Clinton Boskofsky, Chignik Lake
Austin Shangin, Perryville
Boris Kosbruk, Perryville
Edgar Shangin, Ivanof
Steven Shangin, Ivanof
Al Anderson, Chignik Lagoon
Ben Allen, Chignik Bay
Gene Carlson, Chignik Bay

Members Absent: Patrick Kosbruk, Perryville
Gary Anderson, Chignik Lagoon
Rame AbouEid, Alternate
Brandon Daugherty, Alternate

Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

List of User Groups Present: All Chignik Communities are Represented

III. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Ben. Austin seconded. Approved unanimously.

IV. Fish and Game Staff Present: Nick Sagalkin, Westward Regional Supervisor; Jeff Wadle, Westward Fisheries Management; Taryn O'Connor-Brito, Board Support; Dawn Wilburn, Chignik Area Management Biologist; Ross Renick, Chignik Assistant Management Biologist; Lucas Stumpf, South Pen. Assistant Management Biologist; Tyler Polum, Kodiak Area Manager; Amy Witta, Anchorage Division of Subsistence; Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough, Division of Subsistence

- V. Guests Present: Chris Maines, BBNA; Earnie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough; Chuck McCallam, CRAA; Bruce Barret, CRAA; George Anderson; Earnie Carlson; Wally Hinderer; Don Bumpus; Terrence Kosbruk; Rodney Anderson; Debbie Carlson
- VI. Proposals 147-158: Addressed in table below.
- VII. Statewide: Not addressed.
- VIII. Resolution to the Commissioner: Motion to adopt the resolution made by Alfredo. Seconded by Clinton. CRAA explained that consideration to manage 2019 fishery on the lower end escapement goals would benefit the fishery with some economic relief. Al expressed opposition to using the resolution as a vehicle to use minimum escapement #'s (first component). We would have fished had this been implemented in 2018 and would have jeopardized escapement even more. Alfredo reminded the AC of the inaccuracy of the sonar used in 2018 as witnessed by subsistence and sport users who reported lack of fish in and above the river. Al would like to see the escapement numbers and timing used from the past when the run was built back up successfully. Also, he emphasized the importance of carcass value to the production of the system. Alfredo mentioned a jack sockeye problem with some estimates approaching 20% of returns as having less value to production returns. Concern is shared that the management practices are not showing improvement to the returns. Fish are smaller. Returns are weaker and later. Al shared concern that any cross area genetic studies would show less Chignik composition now that our runs were so weak. Wally remembers fishing three days a week from 6am to 6pm to build up run. Fishing is so much more efficient in all areas now though. Conservative practices are needed. Shared sentiment is minimal escapement will produce minimal returns. Motion to strike the first component in its entirety from the resolution made by Alfredo. Al seconds. Motion to amend passes unanimously. Al inquires if the northbound fish at Igvak being counted towards Chignik is being addressed by the department. Jeff answered that it is addressing a lot about Chignik but nothing will be done until after the board cycle. Look for proposals then. Al reminds the department that we rely on predictions and the brood tables are including fish from other areas as Chignik stocks. Working with the department in the future is looked upon favorably. Ben asked Nick what the reason was to not run the GSI sample in August. Nick responded that it was not part of the designed operational plan in place and that data from the late season would not be used for lack of a mechanism to include it.

Ben asked what is the harm in getting the GSI information when it could be useful in showing a need for extending or increasing the grant that funds the study. It seems absurd to let the information rot. Nick responded partially that samples aren't run for three years in most genetic studies.

Motion to approve the resolution as amended passes unanimously.

- IX. Other Miscellaneous Business: Motion to have Jacob approve the minutes of both December meetings made by Ben. Seconded. Unanimous approval given. An approved copy will be sent to AC members for review.
- Subcommittee to address issues at Board of Fish Feb. Meeting: A delegate from each community, 5 members, will serve on the subcommittee. Any other AC member present may serve as alternate. The subcommittee will uphold decisions made by membership of the whole. Meeting will be held every morning at 7:30. Location to be determined.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

Support, Support as Amended, Oppose, No Action	Number Support	Number Oppose	Comments, Discussion (list Pros and Cons), Amendments to Proposal, Voting Notes
147	Reduce the inriver goal for sockeye salmon above the Chignik River weir for August and September		
Support as Amended	10	2	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Don Bumpus, the author, summarized the proposal, that it was designed to control coho predation. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late-run subsistence fishing is highly important to the five Chignik communities. The villages of Chignik Lake and Chignik Lagoon in particular depend on the late component of the Chignik Lake run to meet cultural and subsistence needs. • Based on local observations the late component of the Chignik Lake run is not as strong as it was historically. • Biological opinion is that the late component of the Chignik Lake sockeye escapement is the most vulnerable to an increase in rearing habitat (food) competition from Black Lake fry due to their late emergence as fry and small size. • The existing 75k inriver escapement goal effectively blocks any future opportunity for a late-season commercial Coho fishery which would reduce Coho predation on sockeye fry. FRI has documented that Coho salmon fry in Chignik Lake consume vast numbers of sockeye fry and have suggested that Chignik sockeye salmon production would improve if a late-season Coho fishery were available to reduce the Coho escapement and therein lessen sockeye fry predation. • The 300 plus bears identified in the drainages are speculated to eat 30 salmon each daily and along with seals contribute to pre-spawning predation. • It would be helpful if the Department knew what percentage of the fry were eaten by Coho. Department acknowledged there were studies showing they eat quite a lot. • Agreement is given that a coho predation problem exists and compounds problems for future escapements. It is probable that low sockeye escapement numbers will preclude a fishery when the coho run is peaking in the lagoon. • A regular fall fishery used to take care of the coho problem but sockeye returns have dwindled and there is often not enough sockeye to support a fishery even at the previous in-river escapement goals. • An increase of sockeye returns is needed to maintain a healthy balance that allows for fishing openings when coho are present in volume. Alternate ideas were to allow fishing outside of the lagoon to target

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

			<p>coho. The department acknowledged that this could be done when escapement was being achieved, however it noted that there was nothing to guarantee that a fisherman wouldn't end up targeting sockeye.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department was asked what the current ANS was. Staff responded, 5,200-9,600 early run and 2,000-3,800 late run. The 2017 harvest was a little below average at 6,629 sockeye districts wide. Two reasons for this given by staff were a lower population and having to work harder with more difficulty getting the fish. • Fisheries are getting more effective and if interception fisheries were controlled/regulated appropriately this wouldn't be an issue. <p>Alfredo made a motion to amend proposal 147 with an inriver escapement of 25k August/25K by Sept. 15 (return to what was in regulation previously). Rollcall vote to amend resulted in 11-Support, 1-Oppose.</p> <p>Rollcall vote on 147 as amended resulted in 10-Support, 2-Oppose</p>
148	Amend the Chignik Area Salmon Management Plan so that pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Western and Perryville sections of Area L will be managed based on the strength of the pink, chum, and coho salmon stocks in the Stepovak and Shumagin Islands sections of Area M		
Oppose	0	12	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chignik Management Area is exclusively managed as a terminal-stock harvest area for local Chignik salmon, and that includes the Perryville and Western districts. • Within the Western and Perryville districts are numerous pink, chum, and Coho producing streams with 22 in the Western District and 24 in the Perryville District for a total of 46. • The proposal if passed it would effectively prevent local sock management of 46 salmon systems in the Perryville and Western districts. • Numerous salmon streams occur near the Native villages of Perryville and Ivanof Bay which are of distinct cultural and economic importance. To suggest that local resources in the Western and PV districts should be managed in accordance with Area M openings is most unreasonable and a callous disregard of our people. • An alternative proposal is for the SEDM and the Shumagins to open only when Chignik's PV and Western districts are open. This could be justified on the WASSIP study which showed that the SEDM fishery is not only an intercept fishery on Chignik-bound sockeye salmon but also on chum salmon. In the two years evaluated

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

			<p>(148 continued...)(2008-09), the chum catch was dominated by an aggregate of Chignik /Kodiak fish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Proposal 148 appears to be anchored on greed and irrationality.
149	Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Western and Perryville districts		
Support as Amended	11	1	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Al seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While more fishing opportunity is desirable for the Perryville and Western districts, the proposal calls for concurrent openings with the Central and Chignik Bay districts, including Chignik Lagoon, which would limit F&G's management options especially relative to being able to provide longer and more fishing periods in the more terminal Chignik areas. While the proposal calls for the option of closing the Western District during the overlap period it does not provide the same for the Perryville District. The Department should have the flexibility to open the Perryville and Western Districts depending on the strength on the early run; as written, this proposal does not provide such flexibility except in the Western District during the overlap period. The proposal would be acceptable if instead of requiring <u>current openings</u> it read: '<u>may open currently</u>.' This would likely focus openings here during years with strong runs. If approved this proposal would spread the fleet out, but also it may well encourage an influx of larger boats and out-of-area permit holders. This may help with the coho problem stated in proposal 147. Concern was voiced if this could negatively impact the second run. Others pointed out the department had flexibility to close fishing and that it was giving more flexibility to open areas already fished. <p>Al made a motion to amend proposal 149, 5AAC 15.357 (d)(1) to read "during June, the commercial salmon fishery <u>may</u> [SHALL] open concurrently..." and amend (d)(2)(B) to read "...commercial salmon fishing in the Western <u>and Perryville</u> District will, in the department's discretion... Alfredo seconded.</p> <p>Roll call vote to amend: Support-12, Oppose-0 Roll call vote on 149 as amended: Support-11, Oppose-1</p> <p>The AC recognizes the similarity of proposals 149, 150 and 151. While each individual proposal would be acceptable, the AC favors proposal 149 as amended foremost, followed by 151, and the least favored is proposal 150.</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

150	Open the Western District to commercial fishing for salmon for up to 48 hours each week from June 1 to July 5		
Support	12	0	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Seconded. Don (the author) clarified that the fleet had been boxed in and that the total Chignik area should be utilized when escapement is being met. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More harvest opportunity is needed during June in the Western District when the strength of the Chignik early run allows. • It could relieve crowding pressure in the Lagoon for small boats. • It would reduce crowding and provide the Dept. more flexibility in managing Chignik's sockeye runs. • The Department should have the flexibility to open the entire Chignik area during June when Chignik sockeye escapement is being achieved. • Chignik will always be managed as terminal stock fisheries so giving the Department the option allowing weekly fishing periods in the Western District is reasonable when the Chignik sockeye runs are strong enough to permit such. <p>The AC recognizes the similarity of proposals 149, 150 and 151. While each individual proposal would be acceptable, the AC favors proposal 149 as amended foremost, followed by 151, and the least favored is proposal 150.</p>
151	Increase commercial salmon fishing opportunity in the Western and Perryville districts from June 1 through July 5		
Support	12	0	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents and permit holders want more access to the waters adjacent to their villages. —to target Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. • The Dept. should have the option of providing fishing time in June and early July in the Perryville and Western districts whenever Chignik's sockeye abundance permits. • The current two 48hr. fishing period options in the Western District are too restricted. • This joint proposal by Perryville and Ivanof Bay is both reasonable and fair and illustrates local broad-base support for a management change. <p>The AC recognizes the similarity of proposals 149, 150 and 151. While each individual proposal would be acceptable, the AC favors proposal 149 as amended foremost, followed by 151, and the least favored is proposal 150.</p>

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

152	Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon in the Perryville District and Mitrofanina Section until the Orzinski Lake sockeye escapement goal is met		
Oppose	0	12	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence that any Orzinski-bound sockeye salmon are harvested incidentally in either Chignik's Perryville District or in the Western District at Mitrofanina • Keeping the SEDM area closed makes much more sense than asking for the Perryville and Mitrofanina areas of the Chignik Management Area to close for a system in Stepovak that has a 15k escapement goal. • The obvious intent of this proposal is to do harm to Chignik. • The Shumagins, Dolgois, and SEDM should curtail fishing if there is an Orzinski escapement problem based on proximity. • Certainly, the proposer can understand Chignik's need to halt interception fisheries when Chignik escapement is low. • Area M didn't stop fishing in 2018 though Orzinski counted around 2,600 sockeye (well below the 15-20k escapement). Chignik, not fishing, had no impact on this. The department, having the latitude to curtail fishing in Area M to achieve escapement, was likely politically motivated to continue to allow fishing. • SEDM has never closed when Orzinski is under escapement except in the NW Stepovak Section.
153	Prohibit commercial fishing for salmon in the Perryville District and Mitrofanina Section when the Southeastern District is closed to commercial fishing for salmon		
Oppose	0	12	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chignik's Perryville District and Mitrofanina are managed as a terminal harvest area for local Chignik salmon. • There are 46 commercial salmon producing streams in the Perryville and Western District which the latter includes Mitrofanina. • The proposer intent is to rob Chignik of local stock management. • The proposal is absent of any credible justification. • The Shumagins should be included based on proximity and sockeye catch. • Proposal is inherently non-specific such as dates (pre/post July) etc.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

154	Adopt a large fish escapement goal for king salmon		
Support as Amended Not done	10	0	<p>AI moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current escapement goal includes jack salmon which in numbers can vary substantially between years. Jacks, which are exclusively all males, are rather unproductive although they do spawn. Overall, they do not add to recruitment or production as one male is capable of spawning with up to 20 females. Therefore, they should not be counted toward the escapement goal. Again, it is the female component of the escapement that drives recruitment not the male component that spawns. • Needed for a healthy Chignik Chinook run is a relatively stable escapement of females which are the larger fish predominately. Therefore, it makes sense to exclude jack Chinook salmon from the escapement. • The Department is readily able to count large Chinook separately from small or jack Chinook salmon; it is done on some sockeye salmon systems elsewhere where the size difference is measurably less. • It should be implemented on Chignik sockeye salmon escapement too. In low run years Chignik's sockeye escapement quality can be particularly poor due to a preponderance of two-ocean age males and one-ocean age jacks. • A definition should be set for what a jack is. • Department pointed to difficulty discerning with precision the size e.g. a large fish may appear smaller the farther it is from the camera. • Many community members report the average size of Chinook becoming smaller in the last 10-15 years. Concern was voiced that genetics from jacks could be an influence. Staff pointed to fishing pressure and ocean conditions being documented causes of smaller fish. • This may necessitate restrictions (sport, commercial) however some worry that not being proactive could lead to ramifications of Federal oversight. • The last two years had poor Chinook escapement. 2018 escapement was 825 while in the S. Pen. (which has no king runs) 17,027 kings were caught. 14,999 were caught in the Shumagins. • From 1988-2007 Chinook escapement averaged 4,066. • As sockeye escapement goals decreased it allowed more fishing and added catching pressure on Kings. • Gear selectivity from gillnets could contribute to increased percentages of jacks.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

			<p>AI made a motion to amend proposal 154 to include a minimum escapement goal of 2000 Chinooks and include a definition of 7lbs or less to define "jack chinook." Amendment supported unanimously 10-0. Boris and Edgar had been excused.</p> <p>Roll call vote on 154 as amended: Support 10-0.</p>
155	Allow the shoreward end of a set gillnet to be anchored other than on the beach above low tide		
Oppose	0	10	<p>Ben moved to adopt. AI seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would likely increase harvest opportunity. • It could be expected to improve gear efficiency and open up new set net sites and therein facilitate a greater harvest of traveling fish including Chignik-bound sockeye salmon. • It expands fishable shoreline. It expands interception.
156	Repeal minimum mesh size requirement for set gillnets in the South Alaska Peninsula Area		
Oppose	0	10	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Discussion points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would reduce fish-size selectively, and therein potentially increase the harvest of smaller fish including jacks. • Fisherman in the Nushagak were reported to have switched to pink gear to target smaller sockeye. Harvests have increased in areas where gear size can be exchanged inseason. • Chignik fisherman report 3% of catch being gill-marked and believes many more are killed dropping out. • Chignik sockeye weight average has been diminishing. • This could increase interception.
157	Allow two legal limits of set gillnet gear to be transported by a single vessel as long as both limited entry permit holders owning the gear are onboard the vessel		
Oppose	0	10	<p>Ben moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Discussion Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would reduce operating costs and permit set-netters to combine. • Would increase harvest opportunity on migrant sockeye salmon including Chignik-bound sockeye salmon due to the encouragement of combining by set-netters. • This would increase efficiency thus increasing ability to intercept more fish. • Safety is the responsibility of the skipper. It is being used as an excuse to operate more gear. • This will increase pressure within the fleet as larger boats will be able to fish more gear.

Alaska Board of Fisheries: Alaska Peninsula/Chignik/Aleutian Islands- Bering Sea Proposals

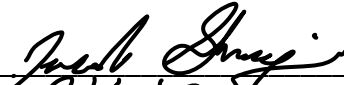
February 21-27, 2019 | Anchorage, AK

158	Increase the maximum length of purse seines from 225 to 250 fathoms in the Eastern, Central, Western, and Perryville Districts		
Oppose	2	7	<p>AI moved to adopt. Alfredo seconded. Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would improve large vessel harvest opportunity and efficiency. • May encourage the entry of larger boats into the Chignik fishery. • May impact terminal harvest opportunity in Chignik Lagoon particularly. • Some members would like to see equality of gear with areas on either side of Chignik. • Small boat fleet will be at disadvantage. • If other changes in regs occur this would be an added variable complicating the view of the outcome in future years. • A limited net size is a metering valve. • One member stated all fisheries should be terminalized eventually due to efficiency increases, in order to protect the salmon runs. <p>Roll call vote: Support -2, Oppose -7, Abstain-1</p>

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m.

Minutes Recorded By: Raechel Allen

Minutes Approved By: Jacob Shangin

Signed: 

Date: 2/6/2019